

this meeting are representatives of the Congolese opposition political parties, the armed rebel movements, civil society, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They are meeting in South Africa as part of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. We urge them to put the interests of the nation over their parochial concerns.

This dialogue for peace is mandated by the Lusaka Accords, which provides a blueprint to return peace to the divided Congo. It is intended to map out a new political arrangement that will result in the establishment of a democratic system of government. In addition, all foreign troops are to be withdrawn from Congolese soil. This will provide the resourceful Congolese people with the opportunity to benefit from their own talents and the abundant natural resources with which they have been blessed. We hope they succeed.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 304.

Before I was elected to my first term in the Congress I was stationed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a Regional Medical Officer for the Foreign Service, so I am very familiar with this wondrous yet volatile area.

The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo is the latest in a line of tragedies suffered by the Congolese people. Since the attempted coup of the late President Laurent Kabila in August 1998 the Republic has been embattled in a bitter civil war between the government and opposition rebel groups.

Now, with the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo, the Congolese people are witnessing a new level of suffering. The results of the eruption are staggering. 46 people were initially killed, according to The International Federation of Red Cross Societies. 10,000 people are left homeless in the city of Goma.

Hundreds of thousands are out of work as a reported 13% of the city was destroyed from the 110 million cubic yards of lava erupted from the volcano. Further complicating things is a cholera outbreak that is hindering humanitarian groups from reaching the 35,000 people in need of food.

Yet despair occasionally brings hope. This most recent disaster has cast attention on the war-torn nation, and this week, at the urging of President Thabo Mbeki, South Africa is holding a summit in an effort to bring peace back to the Republic.

We can only hope that in the wake of this tragedy the warring factions can set aside their differences, begin forming a transitional government, and set a date for future elections that will bring unity and peace to the Congolese people.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 304, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on International Relations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 19, 2002.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 19, 2002, I hereby resign from the House Committee on International Relations.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BURR,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 349) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 349

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

International Relations: Mr. Green of Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL URBAN AIR TOXICS RESEARCH CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Board of Directors of the National Urban Air Toxics Research Center to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Hans P. Blaschek, Champaign, Illinois.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2002.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in a civil case pending there.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. BRAD SHERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BRAD SHERMAN, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with civil subpoenas for documents and testimony issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California in a civil case pending there. The testimony and documents sought relate in part to the official functions of the House.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether it is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House to comply with the subpoenas, to the extent that they seek testimony and documents that relate to the official functions of the House.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair